

4-11-1869

Letter from Anne Whitney, 1869 April 11

Anne Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Whitney, Anne and Wellesley College Archives, "Letter from Anne Whitney, 1869 April 11" (1869). *Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence*. 173.
https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence/173

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4) at Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. For more information, please contact ir@wellesley.edu.

Sunday Apr. 11. 69. Page 1

Yesterday a letter from Mr. Manning brought
the glad news of the arrival of the box
or rather of the bark that bore the box
for an anxious soul was expecting that
in stress of weather the latter had gone
overboard with a part of the cargo of wh.
The Capt. had been obliged to the vessel. It
has been at all events a relief to know that
she had arrived. I fear that a little bit of
pin I sent you was a very shabby affair.
A porcelain that I got at Munich I
disliked so much on longer acquaintance
and after it was set that I accepted the
offer of the goldsmith to put it into his
shop to sell for what he could get and not
pay for the setting. Last evening the illu-
mination of St. Peter's took place - it
was a pretty sight more so than last
year - perhaps because of the loveliness
of the evening. After the sun had set
against the soft glow of the fading
western light the church appeared
with a perfect light - more like
a transparent shell out of wh. the
light shone rather. As the sun's
glow faded away it grew in splendor
all the beautiful outline very fully re-
vealed.

but still - shining with a tender
luminosity - It remained so for
about an hour - when in a moment
came the change - & from basement to
the top of the cross on the cupola the
whole mass burst into waving flame.
This second stage lasts at its acme of
splendor for an hour & a half perhaps -
& then gradually expires into the midnight.
So day was heralded with bells & cannon.
The Pope's escape in St. Agnese - & tonight
the fireworks come round again - A
few acquaintances were in last evng -
two Miss Pillsbories also from S. Ham.
Ch. C. is a frequent long caller - & seems
to be somewhat happier than in his first
visits. When perhaps allowance shd. be
made for him that his nerves were under
pressure from bad teeth - I find myself
quite tolerant of his peculiarities & es-
pecially since he manifests such
an unfeigned appreciation & good will
towards my brother & sister - He
inveighs against the travelling Americans
generally, & thinks the best people
to represent us do not come abroad.
I dispute this point with him knowing

well that all sorts come - & that there
are here both kinds are found. He says
no ^{none} people so well ^{represent} us as
people like my brother E. & sister
J. & because they have something
to do at home - they do not come
abroad. He thinks the refined well-
bred thoughtful class of persons are
not so apt to be found upon the
road. It is true that the class
who represent America most obviously
in the eyes of foreigners do not do us
much credit. A good proportion of
showy levish & blatant persons make
more impression than a larger no.
of a more genuine sort. & it is one
of the ^{unpleasant} things one has to face this
growing sense that America is not making
herself agreeable. But I question if bad as we
may be we can quite equal the English type.
Their heartiness is of a more brutal kind -
their vulgarity coarser. The American is
gay, generous & on the whole of a finer
fibre. I wish whoever they, the travellers
w/., having leave courting this animal & go
their own way without hints that their
society is ill wasted.

We have had a week of
solid perfection as regards weather. I hope
we shall hear that the western party
for the west did not start at the

time they were anticipating - My con-
fidence in the equal skies that over-
arch no increases with all we hear
of yr sufferings in March. I had
a letter from Mary S. last week an-
nouncing their intention of going home
in July. She says she has lately
written to you but said nothing about
"because things ^{are} so uncertain" - What
she means that they shall stay longer
if they get a word to that effect from
Mr. S. or whether it is only one of
Mary's little ^{unintentional} "ambiguities" of speech
I know not. I think there is little
doubt that they will go home -
Some months since H. Hosmer said
she shd. go to Amer. - again next
summer. She may have intended it
for a secret - however - (so I won't mention
it) - Mrs. Packman & friend intend
going to Eng. when they have bef. visited
at a water-cure - O England! shall we
ever travel in Eng? It is ^{fatally} offen-
sive. We have ^{drawn up} ~~drawn out~~ a plan by
wh we hope to profit in our art-de-
velopment this summer - I find too
it in an economical manner - ^{the question} I don't
mean that ~~any~~ means an ^{unpleasant} waiting
time - but it becomes a matter of
pride to get as much ^{as possible} for as little
as possible to the sick who want

2
 To look over their heritage. Follow
 me on the map. First - Venice - then
 Vienna - Dresden, afterwards Prague
 Dresden Berlin, Wismar, Frankfurt-
 Darmstadt - up the Rhine - Heidelberg.
 Geneva, Mt. Blanc, over Mt. Cenis
 back. The plan has thus I recommend
 it that all these places lie con-
 ventionally on one route & that seeing
 them now we shall not need to
 have any regrets afterwards - or if
 we should come abroad again in after
 years. These matters being here
 disposed of we shall not need
 to take them into acct. again.
 I fear that we might have the
 blessed hosts of home to divide
 this pleasure with - or rather that
 we need it by. Over whatever en-
 joyment - there is lacks this best
 part. I think we shall not probably
 follow out this plan - it is too much
 I fear. I know so many great galleries
 in these months - & we may come
 back from Venice over the Brenner
 Pass & see what we want at Dresden.
 Berlin (the latter is 6 hours from

Dresden & then decide whether to
come back again the same way - or
step over to the Rhine. A lady who
called today says we shall want
only 3 or 4 days for Dresden & a
week for Berlin - if this is true
we shall have a month to spend
quietly in some rustic retreat.
Addy is anxious to go to Geneva on
acct. of a watch she promised
her mother to have repaired there
because there only the enamel can
be refitted - & shd. we go to Hudding
& the rest. it falls directly on our
route. Our journey last summer
cost us 1000 frs. apiece - for all
that we saw & got out of it -
it was a wonderfully reasonable
price to pay - To go to Berlin will
cost more

Apr. 16 - A year from this time we
shall probably be planning our journey
home - Mrs. Mervin called at the
studio last week - since then Mr. Mervin
has joined her & they called here this
M. The curious people that we

Americans are! what obstacles they
pose when our pleasure or profit
are concerned. Mr. W. seems to think
nothing of a journey across the water
to Rome then we used to think of going
to N. Y. I say he never comes for business
generally & got rid of the spring weather
has crossed 4 times in March & always
had delightful passages (in that month)
Miss Myers & John had from Berlin
travelling alone - says she doesn't know
how long she shall stay in Europe
may go home in the fall but if she
does she'll return to spend the winter
this side. She says the Mr. & Mrs.
P. are coming over in May to visit
Dickens & travel in Eng. H. H. Pomeroy is
not going over ~~this summer~~ ^{the next} summer.
The Drepers & Hous. made their
parting calls but mean to return
next winter. Miss Dreper is a very
intelligent & agreeable woman I think
likely she will join them here. We
hear that Mrs. Luf & her party are
at Albany & will come to Rome for
a short visit. My bigger woman
is not finished but sufficient to
begin to show. It seems to be like
my best effort some day. I think it

Sat. evng. 17-

Addy has taken a heavy cold wh. affects her chest & bowels. I called in the Dr. (Valery) in whom to tell the truth we have somewhat more confidence ^{than in Dr. Gale}. He thinks it will soon pass off. I say he has had a good many similar cases this winter. She sends a vast amount of love. Miss Hipley came in this evng. to say she cd. not give a lesson to Addy very herself sick with a cold. Addy's lessons until this month when she resumed for a few times. ~~she~~ have ceased since the middle of last winter. Miss H is a warm Roman & a catholic through & through. She sat awhile & talked interesting as always - telling us about the Pope's presents wh. are now on exhibit at the Vatican. These presents are on the occasion of the Pope's 50th mass. (a yearly mass I suppose) his constituents all over the world remember him to some purpose. From America came 2 boxes marked "not to be opened until after the 12th the day of his festa". The papal Court got an idea that there might be some infernal machine in those boxes wanted to test the matter at once. So they telegraphed to America. That the

His Holiness wd. like to open them
bef. the 12th if permitted. In 6
hours the answer came. So as he
desired. While they were opening
the Pope stood strictly over them
saying that he wd. share the risk.
Then appeared what seemed to be
cakes of chocolate. "Aha" said the pope
smiling "they have sent me my breakfast".
Then he took up one of the cakes. wh. was
very heavy & with his penknife scratched
the surface & gold shone out underneath.
"A very substantial breakfast" said his
holiness. The other box contained silver
knives prepared in the same manner.
The Pope handed over to the treasury
the other day five millions of Scudi
ric^h in gifts of money & a Card. A. N. S. S.
says the all that has been said of the
glue of what has been rec^d. does it come
up to the fact. The other day at mass
the Pope wore a vestment sent him
by an Ital. Prince wh. was so loaded
with gold & lined with precious stones that
an attendant priest had from time to time
to lift it upon his ^{may} ^{was present} shoulder. It dragged
down in such a manner. Another - the Prince
of Parma sent him a superb desk of solid
silver & an American gave 200,000 Scudi
to be for a mass. When money is given to

mess - it does not mean that it goes to Jeffrey the spender of celebrating it - it goes to the Performer - Often the priests are very poor - have no stated pay for their services - & if you give 2 pauls - about a franc - less than wh. it is forbidden to give & c mess, it goes to the priest officiating. Therefore this besotted countryman of ours gave his head to the Pope in giving to the Pope's mess. You see my dear Sarah that a good proportion of the world wants to keep this little pagan going at whatever expense of grocers in St. Angelo & human liberty in general.

Sunday A.M. 18 Apr. Abby calls herself better this morning - is reposing comfortably on the sofa by the fire reading an Amer. Journal. of Sci. Lit. & Art wh. it is to be hoped will soon go into the limbo of other stuff of the same sort - just week enough A thinks to read in her present state. Ch. C. departed last Tuesday - was to go so - On Monday P.M. last we had planned to drive up Monte Mario - but in the morning he appeared at the studio wrapped in clouds his first exclamation was - "my wife has turned up" - She with her mother had taken a part - not far from here - where I do not know - She has not called - We are having rainy weather again - & cold, in comparison

for a week we had had summer - my health continues good - tho with a slight resumption of late of the headaches (in a much milder form) - but only when there is obvious reason - Being occasional ^{adventures} noticed in the papers of an explosive Petroleum I have been wishing that I might have the assurance that you had secured friends in that respect - I think with shudders of those glass lamps you all carry about the house & of those awful back stairs. One may do a risky thing for a 100 years & be sure without accident - but it is the part of wisdom to avoid a possible danger - & diminish the chances - Do you know that you must not throw water upon burning kerosene oil - it makes it explode? I am patiently awaiting the letter that should have arrived on Thurs. or Friday - How great that the hideous Spring weather of Boston have not got into your lips again dearest Sarah - Now is the time for care - for care. A letter from the Manning yesterday told us of the safe arrival of the box - This is good & now we can tell better what it is going to cost - what adventures there is

an buying things here - & what for we
like to send for -

I regret that the masked penitent (that's
what they are - persons - often of noble families
adopt that garb in penance for a season
& go about getting alms for pious purposes)
distressed you so much - I ought to offset
it with the fine old model in the white
beard beard who sits for Jehovah & goes
by the name of the 1st person of the
Trinity. Perhaps I sent him among the card
pictures. On some of them he is represented
with a lad standing beside him - both in steep
hats. — H. H. of whom you speak Mrs.
Hunt is still here - but ill as she has
been every moment since she came - I
must run in to see her today. She is very
bright & pleasant - in spite of her weak state.
I am so sorry for her - for she is losing some
wholly - but nevertheless thinks she shall come
back next fall & try it. We do not see
the Nation now - nor do I know when I read
those excellent little poems that they were hers.
She knows what she is talking about - Surely
you can see the difference between the Radical
poor little verses & (what I have been at least
of) hers. H. Long ^{not that we expect} has not called on us - so
how she we see him as we do not go into company.
Pam - was often in by day & eve & we missed
him when she left - the rest of the family also
called. I am sorry to hear about El. Hodges
ill health - I should like to give Kate Howard